

Education Rights:



Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971

What education rights apply to all students?

All kids living in the United States have the right to a free public education.

Schools cannot discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Contact MLSA with any questions.

What can the school provide if I am a student who needs additional support to succeed in school?

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides funding for school programs designed to meet students' diverse educational needs. The accommodations, supports, and services provided are free to students and their families. Learning disabilities can be addressed and overcome.

First, a request for an educational evaluation must be made. You, a parent or guardian, or a school staff member may make the request to the school.

The evaluation results will determine if you qualify for an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which is a plan made to address your specific learning needs. Your teacher and other school staff evaluate your plan as you progress through school to ensure goals are being met and you are getting what you need.

504 Plan

A 504 plan is a formal plan developed by the school to remove barriers and give students with disabilities the support they need. The plan offers services and changes to the learning environment that allows students to learn alongside their classmates. You have a say in the details of your plan.

Additional information on your educational rights in Montana can be found on: www.opi.mt.gov

If you feel like you need help, speak up! You have rights, but you may have to ask for accommodations. You are not alone.

Contact us for additional information and assistance.

Find information on The Bully-Free Montana Act on: MontanaLawHelp.org

Other than MLSA, who can I contact if I believe I am being discriminated against by my school?

- Disability Rights Montana: DisabilityRightsMT.org
- Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit: MontanaLawHelp.org

